

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

It is fully outrageous that corporations can be allowed to influence the election. It is not in the best interests of Americans that a large portion of people can be influenced in this manner. It is very unfair for the corporations to use the air waves to influence gullible people into doing their bidding. It is dirty play. It makes a mockery of our free system when the media can be abused for political purposes. Our news reporting in general is already poor compared to many nations. It is slanted and manipulated for special purpose. It is becoming as objective as radio Moscow back in the old days. Corporate America must not be allowed to influence elections to this degree. We are supposed to have a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Not government of the corporations, by the corporations and for the corporations who by the way do everything possible to stomp on competition from small business. Our democracy is becoming a laughing stock. Our capitalist system is becoming a joke. It is no longer capitalism for the ordinary person. Small businesses are struggling and defeated because of the manipulation of the corporations and placing the program against Kerry on the airwaves is a glaring example of how they do it. Give us our country back. Give us independent radio and television stations. Please, stop consolidation of the media under a single banner.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.